Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to further strengthen the Gold Bond Scheme or to introduce a New Gold Bond Scheme as a National Scheme, making it more attractive to mobilise resources;

(b) whether there is also another proposal to impose luxury tax on gold in possession of persons over and above the prescribed limit; and

(c) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Excise Duty on Medical Steel Furniture

5458. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Association of Hospitals, Bombay regarding the heavy financial burden likely to be caused on the charitable institutions with the imposition of Central Excise duty at 20 per cent advalorem on medical steel furniture and parts of steel furniture covered under heading No. 94.02 and requesting for the withdrawal of the Central Excise duty; and

(b) if so, what is the decisions, if any, taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representation is under examination.

Presumptive Tax Scheme for Income Tax

5459. SHRI ANANT RAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a presumptive tax scheme for payment of income-tax was introduced by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on promotion and publicity on this scheme as on March 31, 1994; and

(d) the amount of revenue earned as income-tax under this scheme so far, state-wise; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Presumptive Tax Scheme for small businessmen has been introduced with effect from assessment year 1993-94.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are as follows :—

The Scheme is applicable to individuals and Hindu Undivided Families not so far assessed to tax having income from retail trade in any goods or from the business of running an eating place or of running a motor car, three-wheeler motor vehicle, etc., or engaged in any vocation. The Scheme is applicable only if the turnover of the retail trade does not exceed Rs. 5 lakhs and the income does not exceed Rs. 37,000 (Assessment year 1994-95). In other cases the Scheme will be applicable if the income does not exceed Rs. 37,000 (assessment year 1994-95). The Scheme envisages a very simple procedure of filing a simplified form indicating the name, address, the type of business or vocation and the status with a declaration that the income does not exceed the specified limits. Tax payable under the Scheme will generally be Rs. 1400 while a slightly higher amount will have to be paid by the Hindu Undivided Families with a member having taxable income and also persons having income from other sources upto Rs. 5000/-. The Scheme is purely optional and, in respect of persons opting for the Scheme, no other proceedings shall be initiated under the Income-tax Act except in cases where the statement furnished by any person is found to be untrue;